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REMARKS

This Amendment is being concurrently with a Notice of Appeal. A Brief on Appeal will consider the various issues and rejections.

The present Amendment only changes claims 14-16, 19, and 20 to overcome the rejection of claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §101. As amended, claim 14 is styled as a method claim, as are claims 15, 16, 19, and 20. Before the present Amendment, claims 15, 16, 19, and 20 depended on claim 14 and, as such, were styled as "protocol" claims. Because claims 14-16, 19, and 20 are now styled as method claims, claims 14-16, 19, and 20 comply with 35 U.S.C. §101.

Entry of the present Amendment, which raises no issues requiring further consideration and/or search, is in order. The substantive limitations of claims 14-16, 19, and 20 in the present form thereof were respectively considered in items 14, 35, 15, 38, and 16 of the final Office Action. If the present Amendment is not entered, Applicants will concede the 35 U.S.C. §101 issue on claim 14, and the appeal will go forward on "protocol" claims 15, 16, 29, and 20.

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To the extent necessary, Applicants hereby request an extension of time in which to file this paper and hereby authorize the Commissioner to charge any required fees not otherwise provided for, including application processing, extension of time, and extra claims fees, to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Vijay MACHIRAJU et al.

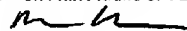
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